

CLAIMS

1. A papermaking fabric or filter fabric comprising or including a layer or component of synthetic yarns or fibres, which have been subjected to plasma treatment.
- 5 2. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 1, wherein said fabric includes a layer comprised of synthetic yarns or fibres, a surface of which layer has been subjected to plasma treatment.
- 10 3. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the yarns or fibres subjected to plasma treatment are provided with activated sites to improve subsequent coating or dyeing.
- 15 4. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the yarns or fibres have been subjected to a plasma comprising or containing oxygen, air or ammonia.
5. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the fibres have been subjected to a plasma comprising or containing silane, siloxane, or a perfluorocarbon.
- 20 6. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 5, wherein said silane is $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_4$.
7. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 5, wherein said siloxane is $\text{Si}(\text{OCH}_3)_4$.
8. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 5, wherein said

perfluorocarbon is 1-6C perfluoroalkane, or tetrafluoroethylene or a combination thereof.

9. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the fibres have been subjected to a plasma comprising or containing a hydrocarbon.

10. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the yarns or fibres have been subjected to a plasma comprising or containing one or more halogenated hydrocarbons or unsaturated amines.

11. A papermaking or filter fabric according to any preceding claim, wherein the plasma is diluted by helium.

12. A method of making or preparing papermaking or filter fabric including the step of subjecting at least one surface of a layer or component of the fabric which comprises or includes synthetic yarns or fibres to plasma treatment.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said plasma treatment provides activated sites to improve subsequent coating or dyeing.

14. A method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains oxygen, air or ammonia.

15. A method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains a silane, a siloxane, or a perfluorocarbon.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the silane is $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_4$.

17. A method according to claim 15, wherein siloxane is Si(OCH₃)₄.

18. A method according to claim 15, wherein the perfluorocarbon is 1-6C perfluoroalkane, tetrachloroethylene, or a combination thereof.

19. A method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains a hydrocarbon.

20. A method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains one or more halogenated hydrocarbons or unsaturated amines.

21. A method according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 20~~, wherein the plasma is diluted by helium.

22. Apparatus for use in the method of claim 12, including a plasma chamber to which material comprising synthetic yarns or fibres forming part of or for use in making a fabric can be introduced and removed after treatment.

23. Apparatus according to claim 22, comprising means for continuously introducing material into the plasma chamber, means for moving the material through the chamber during treatment, and means for causing the material to leave the chamber after treatment.

a 24. A fabric or method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim, wherein the synthetic fibres are in the form of yarns to be made up into a woven or nonwoven layer.

a 25. A fabric or method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim, wherein the

synthetic yarns or fibres are in the form of a woven textile layer, at least one surface of which is exposed to plasma treatment.

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